in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The Vohra Committee Report already placed before the Parliament was complete in itself.

(b) The Vohra Committee Report was submitted to the Government on October 5, 1993. The Report recommended that a Nodal Cell be set up with powers to collate information/intelligence and to take stringent action against crime syndicates while ensuring that it would be immune from being exploited or influenced. The Government accordingly set up a Nodal Agency in August, 1995 under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary, the other Members being Revenue Secretary Director(IB), Director(CBI) and Secretary (R&AW). Subsequently in January 1996 Cabinet Secretary was designated as the Chairman of the Nodal Group. On 20.3.1997 the Supreme Court delivered its judgement in the PIL filed by Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP and others relating to Vohra Committee Report. On the issue of the Nodal Agency set up in pursuance of the recommendations of the Vohra Committee Report, the Court has observed that it is only a supervisory body without having clearly delineated powers and cannot therefore, be very effective in controlling the pace and thrust of investigative efforts. In addition, while the Nodal Agency may be suited to coordinate and exchange information between different investigative agencies, its composition is such that it may not be viewed by public as completely independent or immune from pressure of every kind. For this reason, the Court has suggested that this task should be entrusted to an independent body that is capable of enjoying the complete trust and confidence of the people. The Court has observed that an institution like the Ombudsman or a Lok Pal, properly set up would command such confidence and respect. Till such time, this institution is created the Court has recommended that a High Level Committee be appointed by the President of India with the advice of the Prime Minister and after consultation with the Speaker of Lok Sabha for monitoring investigations involving the kind of nexus referred to in the Vohra Committee Report.

The observations of the Supreme Court were carefully considered by the Union Cabinet. It is noted that a Lok Pal Bill has already been introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha which is followed up. This meets with the observation of the Supreme Court that "an institution like Lok Pal, properly set up could command such confidence and respect." While the measures to get the Lok Pal Bill passed are being followed, Government have set up a three Member Committee comprising of Shri B.G. Deshmukh, former Cabinet Secretary, Shri N.N. Vohra, Principal Secretary to PM and Shri S. V. Giri, Central Vigilance Commissioner, to (i) monitor the working of the Nodal Agency; and (ii) to examine the present structure and working of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate and related agencies to suggest changes, if any, needed to ensure:

(i) that offences alleged to have been committed by any persons, particularly, those in positions of high authority, are registered, investigated and prosecuted fairly and expeditiously, ensuring against, inter alia, external pressure, arbitrary withdrawals or transfers of personnel, etc., and ensuring adequate protection to the personnel to effectively discharge their duties and responsibilities;

(ii) that there are sufficient checks and balances to ensure that the powers of investigations and prosecution are not misused;

(iii) that there are no arbitrary restrictions to initiation of investigations or launching of prosecution.

भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों के अन्तर्गत गिरफ्तार किए गए पुलिस कार्मिक

854. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान और चालू वर्ष में भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों के अन्तर्गत गिरफ्तार किए गए पुलिस कार्मिकों की संख्या क्या है;

(ख) उनमें से कितने कार्मिकों को रंगे-हाथ पकड़ा गया था; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा पुलिस विभाग में भ्रष्टाचार रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) से (ग) भारतीय संविधान की सातवीं अनुसूची के अनुसार "पुलिस" राज्य विषय है। देश के विभिन्न भागों में भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों में पकड़े गये पुलिस कार्मिकों की संख्या के संबंध में केन्द्र सरकार केन्द्रीय स्तर पर कोई आंकड़े नहीं रखती है। तथापि, केन्द्र सरकार अपनी कार्यप्रणाली को और अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने की तथा यह भी सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है कि भ्रष्टाचार के दोषी पाये गये पुलिस कार्मिकों के विरुद्ध सख्त और त्वरित कार्रवाई की जाए।

Bomb blasts and communal clashes in Tamil Nadu

855. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of bomb blasts reported in Tamil Nadu during the last six months;

(b) what is the total number of communal clashes reported during the above period;

(c) whether the Central Government had requested that State Government to maintain the law and order situation in the State; and

(d) if so, what was the assurance recieved from the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) As per available information there were 43 bomb blasts and 23 communal clashes in Tamil Nadu during the last six months.

(c) and (d) Under the Constitution 'Public Order' and 'Police' are state subjects. The primary responsibility for maintenance of law and order, therefore, directly devolves on the state governments. The Central Government also remains in touch with the state governments and constantly monitors and reviews the situation. As and when necessary, suitable assistance is provided to the state governments in the form of modern weapons, deployment of para-military forces and financial assistance for modernisation of Police Forces etc.

Differences over extradition of accused from UAE

856. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether differences have been sorted out regarding extradition of several accused from the United Arab Emirates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken to hold joint meeting with Interpol to sort out the differences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The matter was discussed with UAE delegates at the General Assembly session of the ICPO-Interpol held in New Delhi from 15-21 October, 1997. They have assured that to facilitate extradition of fugitives from India and vice versa UAE would like to conclude a comprehensive treaty with India for extradition of fugitives and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Ministry of External Affairs is pursuing this matter with Government of UAE and a UAE delegation is visiting New Delhi on 24-25th November, 1997 for negotiations for finalising these bilateral agreements.

(c) There is no proposal at present for a joint meeting with Interpol. However, all extradition matters are being pursued through them and diplomatic channels.

Crimes on Trains

857. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action plan proposed to check crimes on trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per the Seventh Scheduled of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including the crime on trains, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. It is also for the State Governments to draw up action plans to check